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### Notes and news

Action has been delayed on the Sundry Civil Bill, and the appropriations allowed for scientific work are inadequate for a natural growth of our scientific institutions, resulting in a reduction instead of an increase in the staff of scientific workers. This is an unfortunate backward step in the line of scientific progress, the value of which the average politician does not see, especially at the time of exciting political conventions.

From *Torreyia* we learn that Dr. Edgar W. Olive, professor of botany at the State College of South Dakota and state botanist, has been appointed curator at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. He is to have charge of the department of public instruction and of the work in plant pathology.

The Rev. S. M. Newman, of Hagerstown, Md., has been elected president of Howard University, Washington, D. C.

Dr. A. J. Grout, editor of the *Bryologist*, is spending his summer vacation at Newfane, Vt., where he is making good use of his camera and studying nature at first hand.

Dr. O. E. Jennings of the Carnegie Museum is making a collecting trip in Canada in the interests of the museum.

Our secretary, Prof. L. S. Hopkins, is again spending a part of his summer vacation at Wooster, Ohio.

Mr. H. G. Rugg, our treasurer, is spending a part of the summer in the vicinity of Proctorsville, Vt.

A question box has been suggested by several members of the American Fern Society, but thus far no questions have been sent in. Will those who suggest a question box for the *JOURNAL* kindly make a beginning by sending in questions or suggestions to the editor?